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LETTER DATED 12 JULY 1995 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement adopted on 11 July 1995 by the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group at its meeting on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) El Hassane ZAHID
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Statement made on 11 July 1995 by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

[Original: English]

The Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group (OICCG) on Bosnia and Herzegovina held an urgent meeting today in New York on the situation in Srebrenica.

OICCG condemns in the strongest terms possible the Serbian offensive against the United Nations "safe area" of Srebrenica, which is a premeditated action designed to occupy the town and to ethnically cleanse the remaining population of this safe area. These actions constitute an act of terrorism and genocide. Furthermore they represent yet another assault on the will of the international community. This situation is totally unacceptable and must be responded to firmly and decidedly.

OICCG recalls that Srebrenica has been declared a safe area, according to Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993). Furthermore, by the agreement with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), this enclave was demilitarized in 1993.

In this context, OICCG also recalls the relevant paragraphs of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) decision of 22 April 1994 on the protection of safe areas, namely, paragraphs 8 and 9.

OICCG demands immediate withdrawal of Serbian forces to the positions before the beginning of this offensive. It calls upon the Security Council and the Secretary-General to take all the necessary measures, including the use of air power, with a view to achieving the withdrawal of Serbian forces, restoration of the safe area status of Srebrenica and guarantees for the safety and security of its civilians.

OICCG also stands ready to offer any other assistance to the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including consideration of unilateral lifting of the arms embargo to enable collective self-defence, should the United Nations efforts fail.

OICCG expresses its respect for the valiant efforts of the Netherlands peace-keepers in Srebrenica, as well as its appreciation for all other members of peace-keeping troops within UNPROFOR. It offers its most sincere condolences to the families of those whose lives have been lost in the brave performance of their tasks.

OICCG reaffirms its support for the just struggle of the people of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live in freedom and harmony, and stands ready to assist them in this noble endeavour.